

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: ESTC, CU, CA

SUBJECT: CUBAN ASSETS CONTROL AND QUEBEC LOCOMOTIVES

REF: OTTAWA 591

FOLLOWING IS UNEDITED TEXT OF QUESTIONS ASKED IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS MARCH 4 BY NDP MEMBERS EDWARD BROADBENT
(OSHAWA-WHITBY) AND DAVID LEWIS (YORK SOUTH) AND
RESPONSES MADE BY INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE
MINISTER GILLESPIE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP:

BEGIN TEXT.

BOADBENT: LAST WEEK I ASKED THE MINISTER
IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE
THE SALE OF LOCOMOTIVES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA,
AND HE INFORMED THE HOUSE THAT SOME COMMUNICATION
HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I AM WONDERING IF HE
IS NOW IN A POSITION TO INFORM THE HOUSE WHAT THE
RESULTS OF THE COMMUNICATION WERE.

GILLESPIE: I HAVE NO FURTHER WORD AT THE PRESENT
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TIME.

BROADBENT: WOULD THE MINISTER FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF ARGENTINA WHICH DECLARED UNILATERALLY THAT CORPORATIONS, WHETHER THEY ARE SUBIDIAREIES OF THE UNITED STATES OR NOT, OPERATING WITHIN ITS BORDERS, MUST OPERATE ACCORDING TO ARGENTINIAN LAW AND THIS LED TO AMERICAN SUBSIDIARIES GOING TO CUBA LAST WEEK ON THEIR OWN WITHOUT COUNSULTING THE UNITED STATES AND OBTAINING RATHER SUBSTANTIAL ORDERS FOR THEIR PRODUCTS (SIC).

SHARP: SO FAR AS I KNOW, MR. SPEAKER, CORPORATIONS IN CANADA DO OBEY CANADIAN LAW, AND IF THE HON. MEMBER HAS SOME EVIDENCE THAT THEY DO NOT OBEY CANADIAN LAW, I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT.

BROADBENT: IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE FIRM IN QUESTION IN MONTREAL DID EXACTLY WHAT FIRMS NOW OPERATING IN ARGENTINA NO LONGER DO, NAMELY, CONSULT ITS PARENT BODY IN THE UNITED STATES BEFORE IT PROCEEDED TO SIGN A CONTRACT, WOULD THE MINISTER ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT THIS IS NOT IN FACT THE GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR FIRMS WITHIN CANADA?

SHARP: I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, AT ALL LEVELS, HAS BEEN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN THE UNITED STATES MY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. DR KISSINGER HAS BEEN AWAY. THE MATTER HAS NOW BEEN BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION, AS WE HOPE IT WILL HAVE A GOOD OUTCOME.

LEWIS: IF I UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE MINISTER SAID, IF WAS THAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING A POSSIBLE DEAL. MAY I ASK THE MINISTER ON WHAT BASIS IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST THE INTERCESSION OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN AN EXPORT DEAL BETWEEN A CANADIAN COMPANY AND SOME OTHER COUNTRY?
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IF IT NOT TIME FOR THIS KIND OF THING TO END SO FAR AS CANADA IS CONCERNED?

SHARP: I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH THE HOM. GENTELMAN THAT THIS KIND OFACTION IS MOST UNDESIRABLE AND DOES NOT PROMOTE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. MAY I SAY TO HIM THAT IT IS NOT ANY LAW OF CANADA THAT HAS BEEN BROKEN BUT IT IS A LAW OF THE UNITED STATES THAT

IS IN QUESTION. AMERICANS ARE BEING PROSECUTED IN THE
UNITED STATES, OR COULD BE, FOR ACTIONS TAKEN IN
CANDA. I AGREE WITH HIM THAT THIS IS THE MOST
REPREHENSIBLE BUT ONE HAS TO CHANGE THE LAWS OF THE UNITED
STATES AND NOT OF CANADA.

END TEXT.
JOHNSON

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